Rutland - August 15th
Judically 1814

My Dear Mother

If I recollect I asked you in my last letter - whether it would be agreeable for me to come as early as October and spend the winter at home. Since that period Providence has opened an unexpected door for me and I have made all deligence to enter it - so that I shall not be able to spend the winter with you. I am very pleasantly situated in East Rutland with Mr Hicks an Episcopal Clergyman. He has a very good Theological Library to which I have free access - he has marked out my course of study - hears daily my recitations and gives me faithful instruction. I have nearly lights - board - washing - mending &c - all of which I pay for by spending in this employ 2 hours of each day instructing a class of six or eight boys. Thus you see how the Lord is providing for me. I had felt rather unpleasantly about spending 5 or 6 months at home and several accounts Advantages for pursuing my studies would be limited - my board would be the most of a tax upon you and I should never more than all the deprivation of attending Church. The Lord has provided for me another way and it is all for the best. I am so near home now that I can easily run and visit you as you know it is but little more than a half a days walk for me - I left a dear circle of friends at Woodstock - they appeared determined for some time that I should not leave them and are not perfectly reconciled now.

I have been moderately active there in Enlisting us to the School and thus working on the feelings of parents and others - till the School was considered very flourishing and I think some of the teachers who are not pious began to think seriously of it is time for them to repent. I delivered an address in the body of the institution to quite a respectable and attentive audience - the evening before I left. I hope it will not be in vain. I consider the address - my master piece thus far - it is the first and last I have ever delivered in the sacred desk. It has been suggested since. I spoke with ease and yet was heard distinctly in every part of the House - Since I have reason to hope - if God spare my life I shall be able to preach the everlasting Gospel to dying men without endangering health. The Ladies presented me with a very neat stock as I came away. which was quite acceptable. I wrote a letter from Va a few weeks since the in formed me he was married - passed through N York just after the sisters left - expected to join them there - was much disappointed - Heard I was studying Divinity with an E. Clergyman with a view of taking orders in the Church - said. He had heard of strange things before - but this - if true - was passing strange - I have since written him - assured him of the first without giving any reasons as I could not satisfactorily in the space of one letter. He also told me the miss Board having Bishop - was solicited to go on a Foreign Mission - had not a call to take charge of a new church in N York city and a pressing invitation from some other - I advised him to go preach the Gospel to the Heathen and gave him some reasons for my advice which I have not time now to mention. I should like much to hear from you. I have been decided. He tells me he has a precious wife - but nothing farther. I can not conceive of any person in a better situation than he is to go to a foreign country. I hope the Lord will enable him by his grace to say "Here am I send me". Methodism - the missionary spirit - is beginning to burn brightly among the Episcopalians. There is a loud call for 30 men the present year and I have no doubt if they could be found - one of them would remain for the want of means to send them abroad. I think the Episcopal Church will not hang the behind in the glorious work of Evangelizing the world. Vigorous efforts are making to establish Seminaries and educate pious young men - the hearts of many are opened to cast in liberally for the excellent purposes and a number join. I hope the day is not far distant when our beautiful service shall be offered in every land. It is interesting indeed to watch the signs of the times - although there are many thick and stormy clouds - it does seem to me the day is dawning - the "Sun of Righteousness is rising with healing in his beams" - superstition - ignorance and error are flying away. May the Lord hasten the glorious time when all shall know him. I hope in the course of a year and a half to be ready to enter the field. Let me enjoy your prayers - dear Sir - that I may have distinctly in mind the great object of my pursuit and constantly carry about with me the conviction that I am about engaging in a work of awful magnitude.

I want my mark my Hebrew Books. Grammar Chrestomathy and Lexicon. If you will do them up - give them to Mr Lisle and request him to ask Mr Turnbull to have them at Mr Hicks's shall be much obliged. Write me soon and particular - Love to all -

This from your son — ——— Nathan'l. P. Prestiss

RUTLAND
V.T
AUG 10

10

Miss Polly P. Fisher

Rupert Vt